



Department of Justice
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Southern District of West Virginia

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KANAWHA COUNTY MAN SENTENCED
FOR ILLEGALLY POSSESSING FIREARMS

CHARLESTON, WV – Mark A. Staten, 38, of Sissonville, West Virginia, was sentenced by United States District Judge John T. Copenhaver, Jr. to nine and a half months in prison for possessing three firearms after being convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence. Staten's term of imprisonment will be followed by three years supervised release, the first six months of which is to be served at Transitions, Inc., a halfway house located in Ashland, Kentucky.

Staten pled guilty to the charge in September 2010. The conviction stems from an investigation led by the Kanawha County Sheriff's Department. On April 7, 2009, deputies responded to a domestic disturbance at Staten's Sissonville residence which he shared with his wife. Upon entering the home, deputies discovered two rifles and a shotgun hanging on the living room wall. Staten was prohibited from possessing a firearm by virtue of three previous convictions in Kanawha County Magistrate Court for misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence. Staten's wife was the victim in all three cases. Staten admitted to a deputy that he knew he was prohibited from possessing firearms.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives assisted in the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Lisa G. Johnston handled the prosecution.

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